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PROPOSED BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1995 AND 1996

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Jean-Marie Kacou Gervais (Côte d'Ivoire), on the basis of informal consultations

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

The Economic and Social Council decides that the operational activities of the United Nations for the international development cooperation segment of its substantive session of 1995 shall be of five days duration and be organized as follows:

High-level meeting

Day 1 An introductory statement shall be made on behalf of the Secretary-General, followed by statements by delegations on the principal theme chosen for the meeting.

The high-level meeting will consider as a principal theme the implementation by the United Nations system of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development and in this context focus could be given to inter alia, action taken after the Conference to implement the integrated approach to population and development issues.

Consideration should also be given to the outcome of the World Summit on Social Development.

Statements should deal, in particular with issues relating to the provisions by the Economic and Social Council of cross-sectoral

coordination and overall guidance, the monitoring of the division of labour between and cooperation within the United Nations development system and the provision of guidance to the relevant inter-agency coordination systems.

Relevant specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system are invited to prepare background information on the principal theme chosen, consisting of no more than three pages. These documents should be submitted to the Council 14 days in advance of the opening of the substantive session.

Representatives of agencies will be invited to comment on statements by delegations and to answer questions raised.

To the extent possible, any written statements should be circulated in advance and interventions limited to five minutes. Provision should be made for additional sessions, in case of need.

Informal dialogue with heads of agencies

Day 2 Interventions from all participants in the dialogue should be limited to short comments, questions and answers. Establishing time-limits for such interventions could help the task of the Chairman in maintaining the character of the session as an informal dialogue.

There should be no speakers lists.

The dialogue shall focus on how to strengthen coordination of United Nations operational activities, at all levels in particular the field level, taking into account the forthcoming triennial policy review.

Working-level meetings

Days 3-5 The Council shall devote one day to an informal exchange of views with a limited number of representatives/country directors at the field level of the United Nations development funds and programmes, as well as specialized agencies on key areas of the forthcoming triennial policy review, in particular on field-level coordination, improving the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation, national execution and the Secretary-General's comprehensive analysis of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992.

In order to implement General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 48/162 of 20 December 1993, informal discussions should include the following subjects:

(a) Relationship between the Council and the Executive Boards;

(b) Provision of overall guidance by the Council to the funds, programmes and agencies;

(c) Review and evaluation of the Secretary-General's annual report for the operational activities segment, including the elements in paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1994/33 of 28 July 1994, taking into account the individual reports of programmes and funds;

(d) Consideration of relevant recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and other relevant bodies in the light of policies established by the General Assembly, in order to take them into account, as appropriate, in the operational activities of the United Nations;

(e) Provision of orientation and the making of recommendations to the relevant inter-agency coordination mechanisms in order to support and enhance their role;

(f) Preparatory work for the triennial policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system, particularly financing of operational activities.

Discussions and, where appropriate, decision-making shall also take place on:

(a) The follow-up by the United Nations system to the International Conference on Population and Development, based on the report of the Secretary-General on institutional follow-up issues and reporting procedures, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994.

Participants will need to bear in mind that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/128, the following issues will be addressed by the Council:

- The review of the terms of reference and the mandate of the Commission on Population and Development;

- Following the above, considerations on the composition of the Commission;

- The possible establishment of a separate Executive Board of the United Nations Population Fund;

- Recommendations to the Secretary-General concerning secretarial support and coordination arrangements for the United Nations system;

- Recommendations to the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an appropriate inter-agency coordination, collaboration and harmonization mechanism for the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(b) The follow-up by the United Nations system to the World Summit on Social Development;

(c) The reports on the harmonization of budget presentations by the executive heads of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund, as requested in General Assembly resolution 49/216 E of 23 December 1994, in accordance with Executive Board decisions;

(d) A principal theme or themes for consideration at the high-level meeting of the operational activities of the United Nations for the international development cooperation segment at the substantive session of the Council in 1996, without excluding consideration of other themes to be decided on by the Council, at the latest at its organizational session;

(e) A possible principle theme or themes for the informal dialogue with the heads of agencies during the operational activities segment, without excluding consideration of other themes to be decided on by the Council, at the latest at its organizational session.

In addition to the adoption of any necessary decisions and resolutions, consideration should be given to adopting some form of conclusions by the President to reflect the outcome of the high-level meeting.